



## THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

**PHYSICAL DIAGNOSIS OF HEART DISEASE**—Noble O. Fowler, M.D., F.A.C.P., Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio. The Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, 1962. 521 pages, \$12.50.

This volume on the physical diagnosis of heart disease is an excellent introduction to the subject by an experienced cardiologist. He writes clearly, and a considerable amount of recent physiological work is incorporated in his clinical discussions. As such, the discussion of physical diagnosis is broadened to include the correlation between the pathological-physiological abnormalities and bedside recognition of various cardiac abnormalities.

Various chapters cover not only the usual cardiac diseases but also a discussion of cardiac arrhythmias, syncope, measurement of the blood pressure, and a comprehensive account of congenital heart disease. Each chapter is concluded by a selected bibliography which, in the main, includes pertinent recent articles. It is of interest that the author throughout the text concedes that the increased scope and complexity of cardiac diagnostic procedures has made good physical diagnosis more, rather than less, important.

A few minor criticisms can be raised. The illustrations of the phono-cardiograms could be improved, although this may be a function of reproduction. The author has a habit of using phrases such as "suggests" and "probably" when a more direct positive statement is indicated. For example, he states that hemorrhages, exudates, and papilledema *suggest* the possibility of accelerated malignant hypertension. Similarly, although he states that at a position of 45° from the horizontal there should be no distention of the neck veins above the level of the manubrium, he goes on to state that if such distention is seen, the venous pressure is *probably* increased. Again, "the presence of a waddling gait with extreme weakness of the lower extremities may *suggest* progressive muscular dystrophy." On page 20, "the presence of such motion (a lifting motion to the left of the sternum) *suggests* right ventricular enlargement." Further, "left ventricular enlargement is *suggested* when the cardiac apex impulse is of thrusting quality." A similar style is used when the author describes the findings of mitral stenosis and states "the murmur . . . in the presence of sinus rhythm often has presystolic accentuation. It is often followed by a loud first sound." The murmur of mitral stenosis in the presence of sinus rhythm almost always shows presystolic accentuation and is followed by a loud first sound unless there is some reason, such as pulmonary hypertension or heavily calcified valve.

In the paragraph on the innocent murmur, the author confuses the reader when he tries to distinguish between physiological murmur and innocent murmur. He states that innocent murmurs are those associated with normal anatomical and physiological conditions and avoids the term "physiological murmur" because it includes murmurs that are associated with acceleration of the circulation. Yet he states that innocent murmurs are common in pregnancy because of the accelerated circulation. Many cardiologists

would disagree with the statement of page 53 that the late systolic murmur is usually innocent. Most recent work has shown that this murmur is associated with mitral regurgitation and should not be considered innocent. On page 57, the author states that the location in which the innocent murmur is heard is of no great help. Yet many cardiologists have shown that pansystolic murmurs localized to the cardiac apex or to the aortic area are more apt to be organic than are such murmurs heard solely in the pulmonic area.

The above are relatively minor comments and many represent differences of opinion and should not detract from the overall excellence of the book. The text can be highly recommended to students and physicians interested in obtaining a modern scientific appraisal of the physical diagnosis of heart disease.

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**ATLAS OF BILIARY TRACT SURGERY**—Frank Glenn, M.D., Lewis Atterbury Stimson Professor of Surgery, Cornell University Medical College; Surgeon-in-Chief, The New York Hospital. Illustrations by Caspar Henselmann. The Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, Collier-Macmillan Limited, London, 1963. 145 pages, \$15.00.

Dr. Glenn has long been known as a world authority and one of the most prolific authors on diseases of the biliary tract. In this extremely comprehensive work on the subject, he has not only covered the usual and the unusual operations performed for biliary tract disease, but also many general aspects of the subject which the surgeon and the physician commonly encounter.

The "atlas" portion of the text is patterned after the format of Cutler and Zollinger's, *Atlas of Surgical Operations*. Excellent illustrations of the multiple surgical steps in the performance of operations ranging from cholecystotomy, to such radical procedures as the Whipple or Longmire operations are explained in a text on the opposite page. Naturally the operative techniques described are those favored by the author, and some of the alternative methods of performing the same operation are not always explained. In general, however, there is very little to criticize, and the atlas should be of great use, not only to those in surgical training, but also to the busy surgeon as a review before he performs the more uncommon operations, such as liver resections and extensive operations for gallbladder carcinoma.

Besides describing the operations on the biliary tract, the author has included other chapters on its history, physiology, differential diagnosis, anesthesia, cholangiography, postoperative considerations, and the temporary conservative management of the poor risk patient. The information contained in these chapters is of the highest quality but suffers from the fact that the type is exceedingly small, as in the Cutler and Zollinger atlas, and hence somewhat difficult to read.

The book, however, is of highest quality and the reviewer feels that it will make a valuable addition to every general surgeon's library.

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